

March 29, 1976

SENATOR WARNER: I move the bill be advanced unless there are other amendments.

CLERK: No.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I move that 823 be advanced to E & R for engrossment.

PRESIDENT: All in favor say aye. Contrary say nay. The bill is advanced.

CLERK: Mr. President, I move to return LB 917 to Select File for specific amendment. Signed Senator Marsh. The specific amendment is on page 3, line 9 strike the word "nursing".

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh. No, no, she is here.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the State Department of Nursing and nurses from across the State of Nebraska would like to have "nursing" removed from LB 917. At their request, I have placed this amendment on LB 917 and requesting that you return it to Select File for the specific amendment. On page 3, line 9, of your yellow copy, strike the word "nursing". I move that LB 917 be returned for this specific amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Savage. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I would like to speak as a matter of clarification. I, too, had some telephone calls with some great concern about nurses having to contribute \$200 to this thing and I think, once again, we are caught in a swell of misinformation or a lack of information and I would point out one more time some of the basic principles of the bill. One, it is strictly an emergency bill that will cover only a situation in the state where we were in danger of losing our health care providers. Now the people of this state have a right, of sorts, to have that continued wherever possible. This bill is an emergency and the odds would be like ten to one against it ever having to come into effect, but if it does, we cannot strip this bill down to where there is no basis for the provision of funds to provide this insurance. Now the bill very specifically says that there is a maximum assessment of 2% against a particular health care provider who is affected. The three most probably candidates, of course, being your skilled surgeons, your anesthetists and your hospitals. Now if that should come to be, there would be a maximum assessment made against that particular provider and all other providers could not be assessed in excess of one-half of that. Now this does not provide, one, that there will be a 2% assessment, two, that there will be a flat one-half percent assessment against the rest of the providers. It says, that within that framework, the Director may assess whatever he deems appropriate. Now I have visited with Mr. Nelson as recently as this morning and it is his contention that even if we should lose coverage on hospitals, which would mean a shutdown, and our nurses seem to be negligent of the fact that if